World Bank observations on approach to financial reforms by the Government of India

327. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank team, while expressing happiness over the speedy reforms in trade and industry, expressed their displeasure over the so-called half hearted approach of Government on reforms in financial sector; and

(b) if so, in what precise circumstances such observations were made and what were their precise comments; and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Only preliminary discussions with the World Bank team have been held so far for a possible structural Adjustment loan which includes reforms in trade, industrial policy, public enterprises and financial sector. As such question of (a) & (b) does not arise at this stage.

Hike in Lending Deposit Rates

328. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately hiked the lending deposit rates, with a view to curbing imports reducing demand and rectifying the balance of payments;

(b) if so, the precise decision taken in the matter; and

(c) the reaction of the trade and industry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

New programme on Aids Control

329. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new AIDS prevention and control programme has been launched or is being pursued by the Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, indicating also the financial provisions made therefor during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The National AIDS Control Programme was started in 1987. The Programme has been supported by the external fusding agencies such as WHO and USAID also. The activities undertaken so far include:—

— organising a surveilance system for determining the prevalence and infectivity trends in groups practising high risk behaviour.

— promoting safety of blood and blood products by establishing testing facilities for screening blood in blood banks on a zonal basis.

— health education.

— formulation of guidelines for hospital infection control.

— strengthening of 13 regional hospitals and training of clinicians and para-medical staff in diagnosis and management of HIV infected patients